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1 **HOUSE BILL NO. 1071**

2 Offered January 14, 2026

3 Prefiled January 14, 2026

4 *A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 9.1-184, 22.1-79.4, and 23.1-805 of the Code of Virginia, relating to public*  
5 *elementary and secondary schools and institutions of higher education; threat assessment teams; training*  
6 *on emergency substantial risk orders and substantial risk orders.*

7 Patron—Laufer

8 Committee Referral Pending

9 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**10 **1. That §§ 9.1-184, 22.1-79.4, and 23.1-805 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as**  
11 **follows:**12 **§ 9.1-184. Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety created; duties.**13 A. From such funds as may be appropriated, the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety (the  
14 Center) is hereby established within the Department. The Center shall:15 1. Provide training for Virginia public school personnel in school safety, on evidence-based antibullying  
16 tactics based on the definition of bullying in § 22.1-276.01, and in the effective identification of students who  
17 may be at risk for violent behavior and in need of special services or assistance;18 2. Serve as a resource and referral center for Virginia school divisions by conducting research, sponsoring  
19 workshops, and providing information regarding current school safety concerns, such as conflict management  
20 and peer mediation, bullying as defined in § 22.1-276.01, school facility design and technology, current state  
21 and federal statutory and regulatory school safety requirements, and legal and constitutional issues regarding  
22 school safety and individual rights;23 3. Maintain and disseminate information to local school divisions on effective school safety initiatives in  
24 Virginia and across the nation;25 4. Develop a case management tool for the collection and reporting of data by threat assessment teams  
26 pursuant to § 22.1-79.4;27 5. Collect, analyze, and disseminate various Virginia school safety data, including school safety audit  
28 information submitted to it pursuant to § 22.1-279.8, collected by the Department and, in conjunction with  
29 the Department of Education, information relating to the activities of school resource officers submitted  
30 pursuant to § 22.1-279.10;31 6. Encourage the development of partnerships between the public and private sectors to promote school  
32 safety in Virginia;33 7. Provide technical assistance to Virginia school divisions in the development and implementation of  
34 initiatives promoting school safety, including threat assessment-based protocols with such funds as may be  
35 available for such purpose;36 8. Develop a memorandum of understanding between the Director of the Department of Criminal Justice  
37 Services and the Superintendent of Public Instruction to ensure collaboration and coordination of roles and  
38 responsibilities in areas of mutual concern, such as school safety audits and crime prevention;39 9. Provide training for and certification of school security officers, as defined in § 9.1-101 and consistent  
40 with § 9.1-110;41 10. Develop, in conjunction with the Department of State Police, the Department of Behavioral Health  
42 and Developmental Services, and the Department of Education, a model critical incident response training  
43 program for public school personnel and others providing services to schools that shall also be made  
44 available to private schools in the Commonwealth;45 11. In consultation with the Department of Education, provide schools with a model policy for the  
46 establishment of threat assessment teams, including procedures for the assessment of and intervention with  
47 students whose behavior poses a threat to the safety of school staff or students *to include specific education*  
48 *and training for threat assessment team members, within existing annual training, on the use of emergency*  
49 *substantial risk orders and substantial risk orders as set forth in Chapter 9.2 (§ 19.2-152.13 et seq.) of Title*  
50 *19.2 to address the risk of harm to self or others posed by a student's access to a firearm;*51 12. Develop a model memorandum of understanding setting forth the respective roles and responsibilities  
52 of local school boards and local law-enforcement agencies regarding the use of school resource officers. Such  
53 model memorandum of understanding may be used by local school boards and local law-enforcement  
54 agencies to satisfy the requirements of subsection A of § 22.1-280.2:3; and55 13. Designate an employee of the Center as the school personnel safety official for the Commonwealth  
56 whose duty is to compile, maintain, and make publicly available a list of each division safety official

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59 designated and the contact information for such individual included in each collated packet of school safety  
60 audits received pursuant to subsection B of § 22.1-279.8. Such school personnel safety official for the  
61 Commonwealth shall at least annually confirm with each division superintendent that such contact  
62 information is up to date and accurate.

63 B. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall cooperate with the Center and, upon request, assist the Center  
64 in the performance of its duties and responsibilities.

65 **§ 22.1-79.4. Threat assessment teams and oversight committees.**

66 A. Each local school board shall adopt policies for the establishment of threat assessment teams, including  
67 the assessment of and intervention with individuals whose behavior may pose a threat to the safety of school  
68 staff or students consistent with the model policies developed by the Virginia Center for School and Campus  
69 Safety (the Center) in accordance with § 9.1-184. Such policies shall include procedures for referrals to  
70 community services boards or health care providers for evaluation or treatment, when appropriate, *and shall*  
71 *require, within existing annual training, specific education and training for threat assessment team members*  
72 *on the use of emergency substantial risk orders and substantial risk orders as set forth in Chapter 9.2*  
73 *(§ 19.2-152.13 et seq.) of Title 19.2 to address the risk of harm to self or others posed by a student's access to*  
74 *a firearm.*

75 B. The superintendent of each school division may establish a committee charged with oversight of the  
76 threat assessment teams operating within the division, which may be an existing committee established by the  
77 division. The committee shall include individuals with expertise in human resources, education, school  
78 administration, mental health, and law enforcement.

79 C. Each division superintendent shall establish, for each school, a threat assessment team that shall  
80 include persons with expertise in counseling, instruction, school administration, and law enforcement and, in  
81 the case of any school in which a school resource officer is employed, at least one such school resource  
82 officer. New threat assessment team members shall complete an initial threat assessment training and all  
83 threat assessment team members shall be required to complete refresher threat assessment training every three  
84 years. Threat assessment teams may be established to serve one or more schools as determined by the  
85 division superintendent. Each team shall (i) provide guidance to students, faculty, and staff regarding  
86 recognition of threatening or aberrant behavior that may represent a threat to the community, school, or self;  
87 (ii) identify members of the school community to whom threatening behavior should be reported; and (iii)  
88 implement policies adopted by the local school board pursuant to subsection A.

89 D. Upon a preliminary determination that a student poses a threat of violence or physical harm to self or  
90 others, a threat assessment team shall immediately report its determination to the division superintendent or  
91 his designee. The division superintendent or his designee shall immediately attempt to notify the student's  
92 parent or legal guardian. The division superintendent or his designee shall provide, either in such initial  
93 attempt to notify the student's parent or legal guardian or through a separate communication to the student's  
94 parent or legal guardian made as soon as practicable thereafter, materials on recognition of and strategies for  
95 responding to behavior indicating that a student poses a threat of violence or physical harm to self or others  
96 that shall include information on the legal requirements set forth in § 19.2-152.13 *relating to emergency*  
97 *substantial risk orders and* § 18.2-56.2 relating to the safe storage of firearms in the presence of minors and  
98 that may include guidance on best practices and strategies for limiting a student's access to lethal means,  
99 including firearms and medications. Such materials shall be selected in accordance with the provisions of the  
100 criteria set forth in the guidelines required by subsection G. Nothing in this subsection shall preclude school  
101 division personnel from acting immediately to address an imminent threat.

102 E. Each threat assessment team established pursuant to this section shall collect and report to the Center  
103 quantitative data on its activities using the case management tool developed by the Center.

104 F. Upon a preliminary determination by the threat assessment team that an individual poses a threat of  
105 violence to self or others or exhibits significantly disruptive behavior or need for assistance, a threat  
106 assessment team may obtain criminal history record information, as provided in §§ 19.2-389 and 19.2-389.1,  
107 and health records, as provided in § 32.1-127.1:03. No member of a threat assessment team shall redisclose  
108 any criminal history record information or health information obtained pursuant to this section or otherwise  
109 use any record of an individual beyond the purpose for which such disclosure was made to the threat  
110 assessment team.

111 G. The Board, in cooperation with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and  
112 the Department of Health, shall develop guidelines for the provision of materials on recognition of and  
113 strategies for responding to behavior indicating that a student poses a threat of violence or physical harm to  
114 self or others required pursuant to subsection D. Such guidelines shall include criteria for selecting such  
115 materials as well as materials that have been preapproved for such use by the Board.

116 **§ 23.1-805. Violence prevention committee; threat assessment team.**

117 A. Each public institution of higher education shall establish policies and procedures for the prevention of  
118 violence on campus, including assessment of and intervention with individuals whose behavior poses a threat  
119 to the safety of the campus community.

120 B. The governing board of each public institution of higher education shall determine a violence

121 prevention committee structure on campus composed of individuals charged with education on and  
 122 prevention of violence on campus. Each violence prevention committee shall include representatives from  
 123 student affairs, law enforcement, human resources, counseling services, residence life, and other  
 124 constituencies as needed and shall consult with legal counsel as needed. Each violence prevention committee  
 125 shall develop a clear statement of mission, membership, and leadership. Such statement shall be published  
 126 and made available to the campus community.

127 C. Each violence prevention committee shall (i) provide guidance to students, faculty, and staff regarding  
 128 recognition of threatening or aberrant behavior that may represent a physical threat to the community; (ii) identify members of the campus community to whom threatening behavior should be reported; (iii) establish  
 129 policies and procedures that outline circumstances under which all faculty and staff are required to report  
 130 behavior that may represent a physical threat to the community, provided that such report is consistent with  
 131 state and federal law; and (iv) establish policies and procedures for (a) the assessment of individuals whose  
 132 behavior may present a threat, (b) appropriate means of intervention with such individuals, and (c) sufficient  
 133 means of action, including interim suspension, referrals to community services boards or health care  
 134 providers for evaluation or treatment, medical separation to resolve potential physical threats, and notification  
 135 of family members or guardians, or both, unless such notification would prove harmful to the individual in  
 136 question, consistent with state and federal law.

137 D. The governing board of each public institution of higher education shall establish a threat assessment  
 138 team that includes members from law enforcement, mental health professionals, and representatives of  
 139 student affairs and human resources. College or university counsel shall be invited to provide legal advice.  
 140 Each such threat assessment team may invite other representatives from campus to participate in individual  
 141 cases, but no such representative shall be considered a member of the threat assessment team. Each threat  
 142 assessment team shall implement the assessment, intervention, and action policies set forth by the violence  
 143 prevention committee pursuant to subsection C.

144 E. Each threat assessment team shall establish relationships or utilize existing relationships with mental  
 145 health agencies and local and state law-enforcement agencies to expedite assessment of and intervention with  
 146 individuals whose behavior may present a threat to safety. Upon a preliminary determination that an  
 147 individual poses a threat of violence to self or others or exhibits significantly disruptive behavior or a need  
 148 for assistance, the threat assessment team may obtain criminal history record information as provided in  
 149 §§ 19.2-389 and 19.2-389.1 and health records as provided in § 32.1-127.1:03.

150 F. Upon a preliminary determination that an individual poses an articulable and significant threat of  
 151 violence to others, the threat assessment team shall:

152 1. Obtain any available criminal history record information as provided in §§ 19.2-389 and 19.2-389.1 and  
 153 any available health records as provided in § 32.1-127.1:03;

154 2. Notify in writing within 24 hours upon making such preliminary determination (i) the campus police  
 155 department, (ii) local law enforcement for the city or county in which the public institution of higher  
 156 education is located, local law enforcement for the city or county in which the individual resides, and, if  
 157 known to the threat assessment team, local law enforcement for the city or county in which the individual is  
 158 located, and (iii) the local attorney for the Commonwealth in any jurisdiction where the threat assessment  
 159 team has notified local law enforcement; and

160 3. Disclose any specific threat of violence posed by the individual as part of such notification.

161 G. The custodians of any criminal history record information or health records shall, upon request from a  
 162 threat assessment team pursuant to subsections E and F, produce the information or records requested.

163 H. No member or invited representative of a threat assessment team shall redisclose any criminal history  
 164 record information or health information obtained pursuant to this section or otherwise use any record of an  
 165 individual beyond the purpose for which such disclosure was made to the threat assessment team.

166 I. Each threat assessment team member shall complete a minimum of eight hours of initial training within  
 167 12 months of appointment to the threat assessment team and shall complete a minimum of two hours of threat  
 168 assessment training each academic year thereafter. Training shall be conducted by the Department of  
 169 Criminal Justice Services (the Department) or an independent entity approved by the Department and shall  
 170 include, within existing annual training, specific education and training on the use of emergency substantial  
 171 risk orders and substantial risk orders as set forth in Chapter 9.2 (§ 19.2-152.13 et seq.) of Title 19.2 to  
 172 address the risk of harm to self or others posed by a student's access to a firearm.

173 J. When otherwise consistent with applicable state and federal law, in the event that a public institution of  
 174 higher education has knowledge that a student or employee who was determined pursuant to an investigation  
 175 by the institution's threat assessment team to pose an articulable and significant threat of violence to others is  
 176 transferring to another institution of higher education or place of employment, the public institution of higher  
 177 education from which the individual is transferring shall notify the institution of higher education or place of  
 178 employment to which the individual is transferring of such investigation and determination.

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